

DRAFT

Town of Mansfield
Sustainability Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
October 27, 2010

Present: Stoddard (chair), Lennon, Miller, Loxsom, Walton (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 pm by chair Lynn Stoddard.

The September 22, 2010 minutes were accepted.

Stoddard reported that Matthews and she presented sustainability considerations for siting new schools at the October 25, 2010 Town Council meeting. Council members were receptive to a new way of framing the selection of locations. Town Council has not reached any decision at this juncture on the number of elementary schools in Town or their locations. The committee will continue to monitor the progress of school rebuild or renovation.

Walton reported that she gave a presentation on October 20, 2010 regarding what the Town is doing to address climate change to approximately 40 E. O. Smith students and several teachers during the E. O. Smith High School climate change teach-in.

Miller reported that UConn hosted a Connecticut Environmental Action Day on October 21, 2010 geared towards high school students.

Each member was asked to identify three priorities that they think the committee should work on over the next year. They are the following:

Hart-

- 1) Identify goals and objectives based on the findings from the carbon calculators,
- 2) Develop the Town website to include sustainability suggestions and practices that target three audiences – Town employees, businesses and homeowners,
- 3) Provide adequate staffing;

Hultgren –

- 1) Provide adequate staffing;

Matthews –

- 1) Educate the community about what the sustainability committee is trying to do,
- 2) Develop a framework to work within;

Walton –

- 1) Increase residential recycling,
- 2) Develop the Town website,
- 3) Provide adequate staffing;

Lennon –

- 1) Address water supply issues,
- 2) Support economic development by first surveying the successful businesses in Town;

Miller –

- 1) Get an update and weigh-in on water supply issues,
- 2) Create a climate action plan with goals and action items based on the data from the carbon calculator,

3) Develop a sustainability statement,

4) Organize, prioritize and begin implementation of the 2020 strategic plan action items and begin to identify resources needed to implement recommendations;

Stoddard –

1) Engage and participate in Town decisions and projects such as the Four Corners development, the Storrs Center development and the schools rebuild/renovation project,

2) Continue the work of gathering baseline data as a way to inform committee planning and priority setting,

3) Be ready to mobilize when opportunities emerge that can not be planned for;

Loxsom –

1) Reach a broader audience on sustainability issues,

2) Address alternative transportation needs by making it safer and more convenient for cyclists.

The committee decided to devote two more meetings to priority and goal setting, anticipating that it will come to completion at the December meeting. The agriculture committee, scheduled to make a briefing at the November meeting, will be asked to defer their presentation until January 2011.

Stoddard reported that the 10/10/10 Hang Out with Us activity gave clothes line drying a presence at the Community Center and the Storrs Farmer's Market and got a cross section of groups and individuals involved including UConn's EcoHouse students, the elementary schools, businesses and residents. 136 people pledged to hang their clothes out to dry on 10/10/10.

Walton will schedule the 2011 meetings to be on the 4th Wednesdays of the month at 5 pm (possibly the 3rd Wednesdays for November and December).

Stoddard stated that ICLEI is looking for a few communities to beta test their newly developed sustainable community STAR rating program. It is similar to LEED, except it looks at how the whole community functions. The requirements to participate in the pilot are payment of \$25,000, staffing, access to GIS and readiness to begin. The consensus was that Mansfield is not equipped to participate at this time.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:32 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton
Recycling/Refuse Coordinator

Cc: Lon R. Hultgren, Director of Public Works, Members, file, Town Manager, Town Clerk

